

AO 91 (Rev. 08/09) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FILED

for the

February 20, 2024

Western District of Texas

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

United States of America

v.

BY: MG CIENEGA
DEPUTY

Jose Abel HERNANDEZ Mejia

Case No.

DR:24-M-411_____
*Defendant(s)***CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of 02/16/2024 in the county of Maverick in the
Western District of Texas, the defendant(s) violated:*Code Section**Offense Description*

18 USC 554

did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally export or attempt to export any merchandise, to wit: seven (7) pistols and two (2) long arm firearms, and additional firearm parts from the United States contrary to any law or regulation of the United States.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attachment "A"

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Daniel Heredia, HSI Special Agent

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 02/20/2024City and state: Del Rio, Texas

Judge's signature

Joseph A. Cordova

United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

ATTACHMENT "A"

DR:24-M-411

On February 16, 2024, at approximately 11:37 P.M., Jose Abel HERNANDEZ Mejia (DOB: 09/24/1994), a Mexican national, and lawfully admitted permanent resident was encountered by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers at the Eagle Pass, Texas Port of Entry (POE) #2, while driving a white in color Chevrolet Express van. HERNANDEZ was attempting to enter the Republic of Mexico when CBP conducted an outbound inspection of him and his vehicle. CBP obtained a primary negative declaration from HERNANDEZ and referred the vehicle for a secondary inspection where HERNANDEZ provided CBP officers with a second negative declaration for firearms, ammunition, and currency in excess of \$10,000 U.S. dollars.

The outbound inspection by CBP which included a non-intrusive Xray scan revealed seven (7) pistols and two (2) long arm firearms concealed within the vehicle. Additional disassembled firearms, firearm parts, weapon accessories, and ammunition were also found in the vehicle. All aforementioned items discovered by CBP were concealed within the inner walls of the vehicle and inside an aftermarket compartment built onto the floorboard.

Homeland Security Investigations Special Agents responded and interviewed HERNANDEZ, who waived his *Miranda* rights and agreed to be interviewed. HERNANDEZ claimed ownership of the vehicle and freely admitting to attempting to export the firearms. HERNANDEZ stated that he had purchased all the firearms in the vehicle and stated that there were approximately 25 total firearms, some of which he had disassembled. HERNANDEZ stated that he intended to transport the firearms to Mexico for the purpose of selling them. HERNANDEZ admitted to knowing that it was against the law to illegally export firearms from the U.S. without a license and further stated that he did not have a license to export firearms from the U.S.